

For immediate release
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Division of Workforce Development and Business Expansion Teaming Up to Integrate Efforts

JEFFERSON CITY -- In an effort to provide more efficient customer service, two divisions within the Department of Economic Development are integrating a portion of their work forces.

Staff from the Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Business Expansion & Attraction group (BEA) are undergoing an extensive cross-training process to help increase business access to economic development and workforce programs. Seven DWD business representatives and ten BEA project managers are involved in the cross-training. Once it is complete, all 17 employees will represent the services of both the BEA and the DWD to businesses and communities. The training should last about six months.

"We are always striving to improve the services we provide to the citizens of Missouri," said Joseph L. Driskill, DED director. "By cross-training these two groups, it will streamline our operations, improve our efficiency, and enable both divisions to be even more effective in addressing economic and workforce development concerns and questions."

The cross-training involves research of programs and services, job shadowing, and the coordination and sharing of data and regional contacts. Staff from both agencies will meet with employers to assist them with accessing business services offered by the state of Missouri.

Staff members taking part in this new initiative and the offices they work in are: Judy McQuitty, DWD, Sedalia; Dewey Helms, DWD, St. Peters; Nancy Otte, DWD, Florissant; Larry White, DWD, St. Louis; Mike McKown, DWD, Rolla; Veronica Lowe, DWD, Springfield; Sarah Burke, DWD, Kennett; Rick Childers, BEA, Trenton; Dale Clarke, BEA, Moberly; Thelma Crawford and Jim Clarke, BEA, Kansas City; Shaun Sappenfield and Darrell St. Clair, BEA, Jefferson City; Tom Nolan, BEA, St. Louis; Jane Hood, BEA, Springfield; Andrew Zorn, BEA, Houston; and Mike Seabaugh, BEA, Dexter.

For more information about the programs and services of these two groups, and to find out who the representative is for your area, contact the Employer Relations section of DWD at (573) 526-8256 or BEA at (573) 522-1593.